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DISSEMINATION AND UTILIZATION

During the period 1986-87, the Center received approximately 315 requests for information from individuals as well as organizations. The Center provided background information on the Pacific/Asian elderly, information on the Social Security Act, Supplementary Security Income, and Medicare/Medicaid, as well as on resources of the Pacific/Asian community. Through the Center's clearinghouse component, the intent was provide information and resources on individual requests.

The primary vehicle for general ongoing information dissemination was accomplished through the bimonthly newsletter, Update. The mailing list consisted of 1,425 individuals and organizations, including many area agencies on aging and all of the state units on aging. The newsletter format highlighted information on programs serving the Pacific/Asian elderly, funding sources for programs, legislative information, Center activities, and information on conferences and ppublications.

In conjunction with the current project, the Center developed three technical assistance materials that were utilized in conducting the focus groups and then disseminated to community participants, community organizations, service providers, and policy makers. These documents included:

1. Focus Groups Implementation Guidelines.
2. Focus Group process Guidelines.
3. Planing and program Development in Pacific/Asian Communities.

As the Center developed new tools and resources, these materials were made available to all area agencies on aging and state units and other relevant organizations. The Center described the new materials it had developed or had obtained and informed its Update readership of the availability of the information. At the same time, emphasis was given to distributing materials already developed on the Pacific/Asian elderly, albeit on a limited basis due to funding.

Six issues of the Center's bimonthly newsletter, Update, were published and distributed to a national audience. In additional, several requests to receive the newsletter and be added to the mailing list were received, thereby expanding the newsletter's readership. A systematic effort to update the mailing list has been made in order to ascertain correct addresses. As a result several address corrections and deletions were instituted.

Results and benefits of the National Pacific/Asian Resource Center on Aging have been demonstrated in the growth of requests

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for inclusion on the mailing list for the newsletter. Response to the technical information also has been positive. The expanse of information can be transmitted to a larger number of individuals and organizations through this medium. It provides groups with consistent and useful information which has enabled them to start programs, seek new sources of funding, and become informed about current legislation.